

Ducks: Face Wisconsin in first round on Friday

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loss to Texas Southern and an epic meltdown at home against UCLA. Freshman Bol Bol also went down with a season-ending foot injury, leaving Oregon without one of its best players.

Instead of playing as the favorites, the Ducks arrived in Las Vegas needing to win four games in four days to clinch an NCAA Tournament berth.

No. 12 Oregon will play No. 5 Wisconsin on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Sparked by a lineup change late in the regular season, Oregon was clearly the best team on the floor all four days, returning to the NCAA Tournament after missing last season.

The Ducks (23-12) capped it by holding Washington to the lowest point total in championship game history and join Colorado in 2012 as the only teams to win four Pac-12 tournament games in four days.

"Everyone kind of came together at the right time," said Oregon's Louis King, who had 15 points.

The sixth-seeded Ducks clamped down on Washington in the second half, turning a close game into a 16-point lead. Pritchard led the charge with four steals and Kenny Wooten blocked four shots.

"Game in game out, we just came prepared," said Pritchard, named tournament MVP after finishing with 20 points, seven assists and six rebounds in the title game.

"Fatigue never hit us."

The top-seeded Huskies (26-8) looked like the tired team, struggling against Oregon's defensive pressure.

Washington had a long scoring drought in the second half, shot 33 percent and went 5 for 23 from the 3-point arc. The Huskies had no double-figure scorers and could have some anxious moments on Selection Sunday.

"I thought we got decent shots. We got the ball where we wanted to get it and sometimes the ball just doesn't



Washington's Noah Dickerson shoots around Oregon's Kenny Wooten (14) and Francis Okoro during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the final of the Pac-12 men's tournament Saturday in Las Vegas.

AP Photo/John Locher

fall," Washington coach Mike Hopkins said.

"We tried to be aggressive and tried to get to the foul line. That didn't happen."

The Ducks flew into the title by winning the first three of four they needed to earn an automatic NCAA

Tournament berth.

Oregon held Washington State and Utah under 55 points, and blocked 10 shots while rallying to beat Arizona State in overtime in the quarterfinals.

Oregon and Washington split the regular-season series, each winning on the other's home court.

Upsets: What it takes

Continued from Page B1

semifinals, giving UNC a final-play shot for the win even though Duke ultimately won, 74-73.

VIRGINIA: Fans already know all about Virginia's worst-case scenario thanks to No. 16 UMBC trouncing the overall No. 1 Cavaliers in last year's first round.

This year's team plays similarly with a style that can reduce its margin for error.

Virginia again has the tough defense and methodical tempo offense, a combination that tests the discipline and patience of its opponent. Behind Kyle Guy, Ty Jerome and De'Andre Hunter, the Cavaliers own their most efficient attack since coach Tony Bennett's breakout season there in 2014.

If they struggle for stops and get behind, it can be difficult to reverse momentum with fewer possessions to work with thanks to their pace — illustrated in Friday's loss to Florida State in the ACC Tournament semifinals.

UNC: The Tar Heels have three scorers capable of big games with Cameron Johnson, Coby White and Luke Maye. And they're at their best when loose in transition or attacking the glass.

Things get tougher when the pace slows.

Despite its rebounding prowess, UNC lacks a true post scorer — a staple of Roy Williams' best teams — and can struggle

matching up with bigger teams. And its perimeter strength makes the team more dependent on the 3.

In the Virginia loss, the Tar Heels couldn't push tempo, had season lows of 61 points and 76 possessions, and shot 9 of 30 from behind the arc. The trouble from 3 resurfaced in the ACC Tournament loss to Duke, with UNC making 1 of 12 after halftime while struggling to find consistent production off the dribble against Duke's perimeter pressure.

GONZAGA: The Zags have KenPom's most efficient offense (125.1 points per 100 possessions) and a solid frontcourt with Rui Hachimura, Brandon Clarke and the return of Killian Tillie. Gonzaga is the only team to beat a fully healthy Duke squad this year.

But the Zags struggled on the perimeter in the West Coast Conference Tournament title game against Saint Mary's. Their guards couldn't increase the tempo, so Gonzaga had to grind out halfcourt possessions and made just 2 of 17 3-pointers in the 60-47 loss.

The Zags also had trouble on the boards in their three losses. They were outrebounded in two, including by a 42-21 margin at UNC that saw the Tar Heels taking a 27-0 edge in second-chance points. They also surrendered 16 offensive rebounds against Tennessee in December.

Women: OSU No. 4

Continued from Page B1

schedule. At the end of the day, I thought we might be going to Albany as 1 or 2," Louisville coach Jeff Walz said.

Walz won't coach the Cardinals' opening game against Robert Morris as he will be serving a one-game suspension for using profane language toward NCAA officials during the Final Four last year. The veteran coach said he expects to have the support of the UConn fans if his team reaches the Sweet 16 and plays in upstate New York. Maryland is the No. 3 seed in Albany and Oregon State is the 4.

"If we're fortunate to

get that far I'm confident that half of the UConn fans will be wearing Louisville gear and they won't know who to cheer for," Walz said.

It's the first time since 2006 that the Huskies aren't a No. 1 seed. UConn will try to continue its record Final Four run, looking to advance that far for the 12th consecutive year.

"I don't think it matters one way or another," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "We've lost national championships being a No. 1 seed and we've won national championships being a 2 or 3 seed if I'm not mistaken."

Ichiro keeps 'em guessing on future

Major League Baseball opens at the Tokyo Dome on Wednesday

By STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

TOKYO — Ichiro will be there Wednesday when Major League Baseball opens the 2019 season with Seattle facing Oakland to start a two-game series. The 45-year-old Ichiro is expected to play in both. What happens next? Ichiro isn't saying.

A's pitcher Liam Hendriks probably spoke for both teams.

"We're just happy to be along for the ride," he said.

"I can't wait for the opening series when they announce Ichiro and hear that crowd."

Chances are, most baseball fans in other places will be asleep when A's right-hander Mike Fiers throws the first pitch of the year — around 2:30 a.m. Pacific time.

The other 28 teams open on March 28 at Yankee Stadium, Dodger Stadium and points in between. Plenty to see, too, in a season that will stretch to end of October — Bryce Harper now batting in Philly, the Boston Red Sox trying to repeat as World Series champions and more talk about changing how the game is played.

In the meantime, Ichiro slipped into Tokyo's Haneda airport on Friday under the

cover of a gray and black cap pulled way down. He's been highly visible since then; at a rare news conference, showing off in practice with trick catches in right field, and signing autographs to fans lining the foul lines before exhibition games against the Tokyo Giants.

Almost the only shirts for sale in the Tokyo Dome are Ichiro models. And they're not cheap: between \$35-45 for a T-shirt, \$62 for a sweatshirt, and a baseball with No. 51 goes for \$30.

"Yes, we are selling well because Ichiro is a man of effort," said Yu Takamiya, a vendor answering questions through his translator app.

Ichiro told reporters on Saturday that — based on

spring training — he's lucky to be here. He hit .080 in Arizona, and he hasn't played a regular-season game in a year. He was 0 for 6 in two exhibition games against the Tokyo Giants. They don't count officially. But if they did, he's hitting .065.

"This is a great gift for me," he said a day after arriving. "I will treasure every moment here on the field. One week after this event, I will be reflecting back on these days."

A's outfielder Stephen Piscotty, making his first visit to Japan, called Ichiro "a master."

"He still in control of his destiny here," Piscotty said. "He's pretty special and it's an honor to be on the field with him."

PREP ROUNDUP

Columbia turns Stanfield away early

By East Oregonian

With last year's Eastern Oregon League title under their belt, the Stanfield Tigers may not have started the new season off the way they had expected on Saturday.

In Washougal, Wash., the Tigers opened their baseball season with a 10-0 loss in six innings to the Columbia Bruins of White Salmon, Washington. Despite not recording a hit or a run, coach Brad Rogers maintained a positive outlook on the day.

"We had a lot of bright spots," said Rogers. "We had some good pitching from Jaden Sanchez. He threw three innings of relief, and Brad Sample worked hard behind the plate."

Rogers said Columbia has a more experienced team, which gave them the edge.

"They're a good, solid team," he said. "The score really reflects just a few walks and hits. Our main problem was our pitching — we didn't throw enough strikes and gave up too many free bases."

The Tigers (0-1) won't

have to wait long for another shot at the Bruins. On Tuesday, they'll host the Washington team with a 4 p.m. start.

Softball

HEPPNER 22, IRRIGON 10: The Mustangs pounded out 19 hits Monday en route to a nonleague road win over the Knights.

"We have some good young talent and we are pleased with what they have done so far," Heppner coach Rick Johnston said. "We are in a tough league with teams like Grant Union and Pilot Rock. We are young, and we have to get better fast."

Eva Martin went 3-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and four runs scored for the Mustangs, while Jessica Medina went 3-for-3 with four runs scored, and Sage Ferguson went 3-for-4 with two runs.

Bailey Botefuhr went 3-for-3 with four runs scored for the Knights. She also pitched part of the game, drawing praise from Johnston.

"She threw well for them," he said. "She threw different speeds and caught some corners."

LOCAL SLATE

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Baseball
Touchet (WA) at Umatilla
Columbia (White Salmon) at Stanfield/Echo, 3:30 p.m.
Dayton (WA) at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Softball
Touchet (WA) at Umatilla (DH), 2 p.m.
Dayton (WA) at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Echo/Stanford, 4 p.m.
La Grande at Pendleton, 4 p.m.
Tennis
Condon, La Grande at Umatilla, 3 p.m.
Helix at Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.
Riverside at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m.
Pendleton at Southridge, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Baseball
Weston-McEwen at Touchet (WA), 3 p.m.
Mac-Hi/Helix at Walla Walla, 4 p.m.
Tennis
Grandview at Hermiston, 3 p.m.
Pendleton at Baker/Powder Valley, 4 p.m.
THURSDAY, MARCH 21
Baseball
Irrigon at Stevenson (WA) (DH), 3 p.m.
La Grande at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.
Softball
Heppner/lone at Umatilla (DH), 2 p.m.
Echo/Stanford at Sunnyside (DH), 3 p.m.
Irrigon at Stevenson (WA) (DH), 3 p.m.
Riverside at Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii, 4:30 p.m.
Pendleton at Southridge, TBA
Tennis
Weston-McEwen at Mac-Hi, 3:30 p.m.
Kennewick at Hermiston, 3:30 p.m.

Track

Weston-McEwen, Stanfield/Echo, Riverside, Pilot Rock, lone, Heppner at Hermiston Invitational, 3 p.m.
Pendleton Varsity Meet, 3:30 p.m.

Golf

Heppner/lone at Hood River Valley, 2 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 22
Baseball
Nyssa at Stanfield/Echo (DH), 1 p.m.
Sherman/Arlington/Condon at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m.
Riverside at Columbia (White Salmon), 4 p.m.
Hermiston at Chiawana (DH), 4 p.m.
Softball
Enterprise/Wallowa/Joseph at Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii, 11 a.m.
Tennis
Helix at Riverside, 1 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo, Umatilla at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m.

Golf

Hermiston at Kennewick, 8 a.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Heppner, 10 a.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 23
Baseball
Weston-McEwen at Central Linn (DH), 1 p.m.
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii at Irrigon, 1 p.m.
Softball
Lost River at Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii (Rocket Invite), 9 a.m.
Vernonia at Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii (Rocket Invite), 5 p.m.
Hermiston vs. Post Falls (at Columbia Playfield, Richland), 10:30 a.m.
Hermiston vs. Central Valley (at Columbia Playfield, Richland), 12:30 p.m.
Tennis
Hermiston at Eisenhower, 11 a.m.

SCOREBOARD

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Team | W | L | Pct | GB |
|----------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Southwest | 44 | 26 | .629 | — |
| Houston | 42 | 29 | .592 | 2½ |
| San Antonio | 31 | 42 | .425 | 14½ |
| New Orleans | 28 | 42 | .400 | 16 |
| Memphis | 28 | 42 | .400 | 16 |
| Dallas | 28 | 42 | .400 | 16 |
| Northwest | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Denver | 47 | 22 | .681 | — |
| Portland | 42 | 27 | .609 | 5 |
| Oklahoma City | 42 | 29 | .592 | 6 |
| Utah | 41 | 29 | .586 | 6½ |
| Minnesota | 32 | 38 | .457 | 15½ |
| Pacific | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Golden State | 47 | 22 | .681 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 41 | 30 | .577 | 7 |
| Sacramento | 34 | 35 | .493 | 13 |
| L.A. Lakers | 31 | 39 | .443 | 16½ |
| Phoenix | 17 | 55 | .236 | 31½ |

Monday's Games

Tampa Bay 4, Arizona 1
Vancouver 3, Chicago 2, OT
Vegas 7, San Jose 3
Winnipeg 3, Los Angeles 2
Tuesday's Games
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Boston vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 4 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 4:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Florida at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 6 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Toronto at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 4:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Anaheim, 7 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Arizona at Florida, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
Detroit at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Colorado at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Ottawa at Calgary, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vegas, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

NBA STANDINGS

| Team | W | L | Pct | GB |
|----------------|----|----|------|-----|
| x-Toronto | 50 | 21 | .704 | — |
| x-Philadelphia | 45 | 25 | .643 | 4½ |
| Boston | 43 | 28 | .606 | 7 |
| Brooklyn | 36 | 36 | .500 | 14½ |
| New York | 14 | 57 | .197 | 36 |
| Southwest | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Miami | 34 | 36 | .486 | — |
| Orlando | 33 | 38 | .465 | 1½ |
| Charlotte | 31 | 38 | .449 | 2½ |
| Washington | 30 | 41 | .423 | 4½ |
| Atlanta | 24 | 47 | .338 | 10½ |
| Central | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Milwaukee | 52 | 18 | .743 | — |
| Indiana | 44 | 26 | .629 | 8 |
| Detroit | 36 | 34 | .514 | 16 |
| Chicago | 20 | 52 | .278 | 33 |
| Cleveland | 18 | 53 | .254 | 34½ |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Team | W | L | Pct | GB |
|----------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Southwest | 44 | 26 | .629 | — |
| Houston | 42 | 29 | .592 | 2½ |
| San Antonio | 31 | 42 | .425 | 14½ |
| New Orleans | 28 | 42 | .400 | 16 |
| Memphis | 28 | 42 | .400 | 16 |
| Dallas | 28 | 42 | .400 | 16 |
| Northwest | W | L | Pct | GB |
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San Jose at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

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| New York | 14 | 57 | .197 | 36 |
| Southwest | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Miami | 34 | 36 | .486 | — |
| Orlando | 33 | 38 | .465 | 1½ |
| Charlotte | 31 | 38 | .449 | 2½ |
| Washington | 30 | 41 | .423 | 4½ |
| Atlanta | 24 | 47 | .338 | 10½ |
| Central | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Milwaukee | 52 | 18 | .743 | — |
| Indiana | 44 | 26 | .629 | 8 |
| Detroit | 36 | 34 | .514 | 16 |
| Chicago | 20 | 52 | .278 | 33 |
| Cleveland | 18 | 53 | .254 | 34½ |

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